



MONTHLY REPORT NOVEMBER 2019

Commercial and Recreational Fisheries

- Shorter days meant the end of double tides.
- We worked closely with the state to carve out a new Duck Creek harvesting sub-area under the rocks at the pier, which opened on November 1. In the process, we also had to create a prohibited area at the back of the marina due to being an active fishing port.
- The department corresponded often with boat operators about moving boats to prohibited area whenever possible in order to keep the pier rocks area open. This area must close if more than 10 boats are on the front of the pier, including the L-pier, and in fact, we had to close it many times this month.
- We had two days below 28 degrees, which meant we had to close the shellfishery for a couple of low tide cycles.
- A rough, conservative estimate of commercial catches for the month is more than 78 bushels of quahogs, more than 164 bushels of oysters, more than 428 bushels of bay scallops and more than 132 bushels of blood clams, as tracked on commercial patrol.
- We sold two additional resident recreational shellfishing permits, bringing the total number of recreational permits sold up to 880 = \$44,555. This represents an increase from 2018. More than 10 bushels of quahogs and 20 bushels of oysters were harvested in the recreational fishery, as best as we were able to capture while on commercial patrol.

Enforcement

- We continued conducting grant inspections and also re-inspected a number of grants to ensure they met compliance goals.
- Enforcement of fishing after a half hour past sunset was a focus of conversations with boat operators this month. One warning was issued.
- Boat boardings were done to demonstrate bushel limits while boats were in the middle of fishing operations as part of educational discussions about the exact measurement of bushels across the fleet.
- A grant holder with a wild shellfishing permit had a half tote of mixed clusters of oysters with lots of seed. He was informed that taking that much seed is not allowed when fishing the wild. The tote was confiscated, and the oysters distributed in the same area of the harbor.
- A dragger fisherman left shellfish unattended on the Town Pier and was educated on correct protocols for shellfish storage before dealer pick up. He rectified the situation.

State and Town Relations

- Shellfish Constable Nancy Civetta continued budget preparations and met with the Town Administrator.
- Civetta attended the Wellfleet State of the Harbor Conference.
- Civetta attended a department head meeting with the Town Administrator.

- Civetta attended a joint meeting of SAB and NRAB regarding a new Harbor Management Plan, a Wastewater Committee meeting, a Shellfish Advisory Board meeting, and a Finance Committee meeting, and met with the chair of the Marina Advisory Committee.
- Civetta made a presentation at the Herring River Stakeholders Group meeting.
- Civetta attended a shellfish forum with State Senator Julian Cyr and State Representative Sarah Peake, an MSI Assessment Committee meeting at the Division of Marine Fisheries in New Bedford and a DEP/Cape Cod Commission wastewater planning meeting in Barnstable.

Propagation

- Assistant Constable Johnny Mankevetch attended the Barnstable County Shellfish Officer's propagation meeting to give feedback on this year's efforts and plan for next.
- We distributed more than 30 bushels of oysters and one bushel of quahogs in the harbor.
- Mankevetch began consolidating oysters on our propagation bed and moving racks off.
- We calculated that a total of more than 600,000 seed oysters were donated to the department from grant holders who collected oyster spat in Chipman's Cove or their grants.

Education and Public Relations

- Mankevetch gave a talk to University of Pennsylvania students regarding shellfishing and natural resource management.
- Two commercial Town Shellfish Criers and Recreational Shellfish Criers were distributed.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Civetta, Shellfish Constable